

LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

Section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act requires each local educational agency (LEA) that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website, no later than 30 days after receiving ARP ESSER funds, a plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. In New Mexico, districts and state-chartered charter schools are LEAs.

This is a federal requirement and is not the same as the past state requirement for LEAs to submit Reentry Plans.

Pursuant to ARP requirements, LEAs must post on their website a fully compliant Plan for Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services by **December 24, 2021**.

This is the template we are providing for you to complete the ARP ESSER Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. The template incorporates the federally-required components of this plan.

This template incorporates the federally-required components of the LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services.

PED hopes this template will allow LEAs to efficiently and effectively plan and to easily post their LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services on their websites as required by the ARP Act.

The LEA must regularly, but no less frequently than every six months (taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools), review and, as appropriate, revise its Plan for Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services through September 30, 2023	
Date of Revision	

District ID	County	LEA NAME
30	Hidalgo	Animas Public Schools

How the LEA will **maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff** and the **extent to which** it has **adopted policies, and a description of any such policies**, on each of the following **safety recommendations established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

CDC Safety Recommendations	Has the LEA Adopted a Policy? (Y/N)	Describe LEA Policy:
Universal and correct wearing of masks	Y	All students, staff, and visitors are required to properly wear masks upon entrance to any/all APS facilities.

Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Y	Due to our small student population we have easily been able and effectively been able to arrange classrooms for “social distancing” by cohorts.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Y	Elementary students are supervised during hand washing times throughout the day, while highschool students are reminded and encouraged to properly wash their hands at various times throughout the day, i.e. prior to and after restroom use, meal times, etc.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Y	Proper training, use of cleaning agents, following CDC guidelines, etc. have and are being carried out throughout the district.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Y	The district follows all guidelines as set forth in the “tool kits” provided by the NMPED and DOH. We keep records of all contact tracing and report each case in a timely manner.
Diagnostic and screening testing	Y	We continue to conduct short cycle assessments for all students and follow all guidelines for those students on IEP’s and/or 504 plans.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	Y	Although we do not have a school nurse at present, we do have access to the local health clinic (on our campus). We have advertised through social and local media the availability of vaccines.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Y	We continue to meet all requirements for students on IEP’s. Teachers, daily monitor the needs of all students.
Coordination with State and local health officials	Y	The superintendent attends all NMPED weekly meetings, communicates with state agencies, and reports and/or contacts official representatives as needed.

How the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services
How the LEA will Ensure Continuity of Services?

How will the LEA address Students':	
Academic Needs?	<p>The district continues to provide small group and one-on-one instruction as needed. We continually assess the academic needs through observation, short cycle assessments, standardized and informal assessments, communication with parents/guardians, etc.</p> <p>All students have been provided one-to-one devices with internet access. When it is necessary for students to remain home, accommodations are made to ensure instruction continues without "gaps." Teachers/EA's make personal contact and tutoring is available for individual students.</p>
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs?	All students are monitored. A school counselor is available and outside resources are utilized on a case by case basis.
Other Needs (which may include student health and food services)?	We work with community organizations to ensure that daily needs are met for all students and their families. The district maintains a clothing bank for all families to access. Food service is provided for all students free of charge and when we observe additional need, meals are sent home at no cost to the student's family.
How will the LEA address Staff:	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs?	<p>The school counselor touches base with all employees. Counseling is available through the district and/or outside resources.</p> <p>We try to maintain a "team" spirit/effort in our schools through various down time activities, including in-services with meals provided and fun to be had by all...</p>
Other Needs?	N/A

Public Input	
Describe the process used to seek public input, and how that input was taken into account in the revision of the plan.	We have held open houses and other public meetings for continued input from the community. We send fliers home, have electronic notifications, and post on our website and social media district plans and means of receiving communication.
Understandable and Uniform Format	

<p>Describe the process by which the LEA will, to the extent practicable, present the plan written in a language that parents can understand. Or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, describe the process for orally translating the plan for such parents.</p>	<p>The district sends out most plans/communications in both English and Spanish. Translators are available as the need arises.</p> <p>Plans are posted on social media and district website, sent home in print form and communicated through email, text and phone calls.</p>
<p>Describe the process by which a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided a version of the plan in an alternative format accessible to that parent.</p>	<p>Accommodations are made on a case-by-case basis. The district has at times brought in outside resources to meet necessary accommodations, i.e. speech, visually impaired, etc.</p>

U.S. Department of Education Interim Final Rule (IFR)

LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

An LEA must describe in its plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services –

1. How it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:
 - (A) Universal and correct wearing of masks.
 - (B) Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding).
 - (C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
 - (D) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.
 - (E) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.
 - (F) Diagnostic and screening testing.
 - (G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.
 - (H) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.
 - (I) Coordination with State and local health officials.
2. How it will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.
3. During the period of the ARP ESSER award established in section 2001(a) of the ARP Act, an LEA must
 - a. regularly, but no less frequently than every six months (taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools), review and, as appropriate, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.
 - b. In determining whether revisions are necessary, and in making any revisions, the LEA must seek public input and take such input into account.
 - c. If at the time the LEA revises its plan the CDC has updated its guidance on reopening schools, the revised plan must address the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies, and describe any such policies, for each of the updated safety recommendations.
4. If an LEA developed a plan prior to enactment of the ARP Act that meets the statutory requirements of section 2001(i)(1) and (2) of the ARP Act but does not address all the requirements in paragraph (a), the LEA must, pursuant to paragraph (b), revise and post its plan no later than six months after receiving its ARP ESSER funds to meet the requirements in paragraph (a).
5. An LEA's plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services must be—
 - a. In an understandable and uniform format;

- b. To the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, be orally translated for such parent; and
- c. Upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.

The IFR and ARP statute, along with other helpful resources, are located here:

April 2021 IFR: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-04-22/pdf/2021-08359.pdf>

ARP Act text: <https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr1319/BILLS-117hr1319enr.pdf>

ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume I: <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening.pdf>

ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume II: <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening-2.pdf>

ESEA Evidence-Based Guidance: <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/07/guidanceuseseinvestment.pdf>

ED FAQs for ESSER and Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER): https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/05/ESSER.GEER_FAQs_5.26.21_745AM_FINALb0cd6833f6f46e03ba2d97d30aff953260028045f9ef3b18ea602db4b32b1d99.pdf